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PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

BULLETIN] APRIL 11, 1942 [No. 90

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS' CALL TO THE INDIANS.

"Your country to-day is in peril from a cruel aggressor, an aggressor, whose hand has soaked in blood and suffering great areas of China with its friendly and democratic peoples, an aggressor allied to those nations who have deluged with tragedy the once peaceful plains of Russia. Against those aggressors we and the Allied Nations will fight to victory.

"*The outlook is overcast for the moment, but believe me, I have no doubt as to the final result. Russia, the United States, China and Great Britain have resources which the Axis and its allies can never defeat........*

"Let us enter upon this primary task of the defence of India, in the now sure knowledge that when we emerge from the fire and travail of war it will be to build a free India, upon foundations wrought by the Indian peoples themselves..........Let the dead past bury its dead, and let us march together side by side through the night of high endeavour and courage, to the already waking dawn of a new world of liberty for all the peoples."

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LECTURE XC.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS FOR SPRING.

When Hitler hurled his hordes of Huns against the Soviet Union last June, his cunning mind sought to rob the Soviet people of the fruits of twenty-five years of sustained and patient labour, of the new world they had created in steel and ferro-concrete, of the iron will which had made that achievement possible. He saw himself master of the golden corn of the Ukraine, but his soul's natural affinity was with the coal, the iron and the oil that lay buried in the dark bowels of the Soviet earth. He would harness the giant dam of Dnieprostroi to his own war-machine, the tubes and turbines would give new life and pattern to matter, and the mammoth factories at Kharkov would pour out a new volume of weapons of destruction. He would forge a new thunder in the foundries of Rostov.

The weapon that Hitler hoped to wield seems, however, to have grown brittle in his hands, and he who so menacingly took up the sword is now in danger of perishing by the sword. Hitler had set out with the double purpose of smashing the Red Army and of making its revival impossible, by denying it the life-blood which it drew from the armament factories in the country. In both these objects he has failed. How?

THE EXTENT OF GERMAN ADVANCE.

By November last the Germans had reached Leningrad, encircled Moscow on three sides, advanced beyond Yeletz in the central sector, overrun the Ukraine and the Crimea and entered the town of Rostov-on-the-Don. They thus seriously menaced and dislocated by air attacks the industrialised areas of Leningrad, with their engineering and metal works, textile factories, shipbuilding and many miscellaneous industries. They also threatened Moscow and the surrounding districts, which contained the principal centres of textile industries, many of the lighter engineering industries, the great motor works and the machine-tool factories. The greatest blow of all was of course dealt in the Ukraine, rich both in agriculture and industry. The loss of the four great Ukrainian towns of Kiev, Kharkov, Odessa and Dnepropetrovsk was a

serious shock to the economy of the Soviet Union, for it meant the immobilisation of an area which produced upwards of 50 per cent. of the total coal production, 60 per cent. of pig iron and iron ore, 30 per cent. of manganese and a considerable percentage of agricultural machinery. Thirty-three per cent. of the total electric power production was lost, while the iron fields of the Krivoi Rog district, the shipbuilding yards of Odessa, Nikolaev and Kherson, and the steel works of Zaporazhe and Kharkov could no longer be used.

SCORCHED EARTH.

The loss was stupendous and its significance grave. In one fell swoop the tyrant had deprived the Soviet Union of some of the most important centres that could provide it with the sinews of war. Faced with the distasteful task of evacuating that region the Russian soldier and the Russian peasant, however, saw to it that the enemy should not benefit by his gains. Then began that phase of policy which startled the world with its ruthless logic, and caused terror and dismay in the heart of the invader. The 'scorched earth' policy was not a counsel of despair, but the foretaste of that determination which is now hurling back the invader to the place from whence he came.

The surest index of a nation's strength lies, after all, not so much in its army as in the spirit that compels action in that army. The vast array of French armed might did not avail against the German tide, and the spirit that flinched at the sacrifice of Paris now helplessly groans under the Nazi tyrant. The Dnieprostroi Dam was the pride of modern Russia, and had the same place in Russian affections as the Place de la Concorde in the French and St. Paul's in the British. Yet the Russians blew up that Dam rather than see it fall to the Nazis. The scorched earth policy was carried out with relentless vigour, unshakeable determination and a full realisation of the sacrifice that it entailed.

FACTORIES TRANSPLANTED.

But the scorched-earth policy also had a positive aspect: the transference of whole factories and plants together with skilled workers from dangerous areas to places immune from hostile attack. The Russians only destroyed what they could not save; the rest was gathered and sent to safer spots. This is an aspect of the policy which has not received the praise it deserves, but it is clear that in the anguished cry of the German beast who saw the prey slip away from its grasp there lies the surest proof of the efficacy of Russian methods.

The Germans bitterly complained, for example, that the Zaporazhe aluminium factory on the Dnieper was empty when they reached it, that Kiev had been depleted where it had not been burned. The industrial towns of the Ukraine and the Don Basin have now a new address, they moaned. The Krivoi Rog tanks works have gone to Magnitogorsk, and the aluminium tractor and machine tool factories of Kiev, Odessa and Kharkov have gone to Sverdlovsk Khigir and Magnitogorsk—all in the Ural region beyond the Volga. Two million workers from European Russia are already working in the industrial centres of Siberia.

Similarly, wrote the Swedish Correspondents behind the German forces in the Ukraine, the Russians have managed to remove practically all agricultural machinery, horses and other live-stock. " Since Russian agriculture is practically all mechanized it is impossible for the Germans to garner even that part of the grain which the Russians were not able to destroy ".

The *Neue Zuercher Zeitung* a daily newspaper in German, writing on Nov. 4, described the evacuation of war factories from Leningrad. Most of the aircraft factories, it says, were literally packed up in boxes and transferred to Kazan, while the tank factories were evacuated to Sverdlovsk and Tcheljabinsk. The perfect functioning of the evacuation scheme was mainly due to a secret railway line until recently unknown to the enemy. It was a branch of the Murmansk-Leningrad railway, connecting Soroka, on the Arctic Sea, with the Archangel-Vologda Railway. In the same way, the light tool factories of Tula were removed from danger's reach long before the Germans entered that city. A big plant which left Kiev within three days of the order to evacuate arrived intact with its personnel, and resumed production in its new surroundings. Not only were its workers able to fulfil the August production plan, but in September they nearly doubled the output which had been achieved in Kiev. A number of such factories, wrote a correspondent of the *British Official Wireless* on October 30, have been successfully transferred from White Russia, the Ukraine and the Baltic States.

THE EASTWARD TREK.

Thus have the Russians been 'Leap-frogging' their industries back eastwards out of reach of the invading Germans.

As a matter of fact, Russian industry has been migrating eastwards now for a number of years, and it was the special feature of the Third Five-Year Plan to convey it to remoter places of safety. Leningrad, Moscow, the Ukraine and the Don Basin are the old centres and accounted for the greater part of Russia's output of industrial goods and manufactures, but there are new places eastwards to which can be removed the vital war undertakings of the older centres. This process is now well under way. Behind the Don-Volga Line, and between the Volga and the Urals, there is a new industrial area, a new world of fuel and raw material, of factories and industrial plants, of workers' dwellings which can house new labour now trekking towards the East. Beyond the Urals, in Siberia and Central Asia there is a chain of growing industry to equip and feed the armies of the west.

The Soviet people had in fact never trusted the Germans, and had long realised the peril of attack from the west. Of Russia's economic Five-Year Plans the whole world has heard; of her five-year military plans no details ever leaked out, and it is only now that they are being tested in the flames of battle which have enveloped the whole of Europe. These military plans are of course pivoted on the industrial strength of the country, situated in the Ural regions and beyond.

THE RICH URALS.

Today the Urals stand first in Russian copper production; second only to the Ukraine in iron and steel output; third after Donetz and Siberia in coal production, and fourth in the production of electricity, oil and engineering goods. As regards electricity, the Russians still possess Leningrad and Moscow, the other two of the three main centres; as regards oil, its whole output is still secure, while of the centres which produce engineering goods they have only lost the centres in Ukraine, but still maintain the centres in Moscow and Leningrad.

The middle Urals contain 25 per cent. of the mineral resources of the U. S. S. R., and it is mainly in this region that the greatest developments in heavy industries have taken place. Here have been raised the country's largest steel plant, its largest chemical factory, its largest machine—building works, its largest copper-smelter and its biggest heavy tractor plant. The long line of plants which stretch from Magnitogorsk in the south to Berezniki in the north are immune from hostile attack, both from the West as well as the East.

Magnitogorsk has one of the largest iron and steel plants in the Soviet Union, and a great variety of heavy construction and engineering industries. It draws its supplies of nickel, manganese and chrome from Orsk, on the Upper Ural River. Agricultural machinery is produced mainly at Chelyabinsk. A great new metallurgical plant began operations in June 1940, at Nizhni Tagil. It was claimed that the section already working had a capacity of 635,000 tons a year, and the plant when completed is expected to produce nearly 2 million tons of pig iron and 1½ million tons of rolled metal a year, and to supply the steel requirements of engineering and car works in Sverdlovsk and elsewhere. Copper is mined chiefly at Degtyarka, south of Sverdlovsk, and a great copper refinery was opened in 1940 at Revda, near Sverdlovsk. Besides Bogoslav in the north, the chief iron deposits lie near Magnitogorsk and Halilovo in the south, and around the latter a second big steel plant is already rising.

Oil comes mainly from the regions between the Urals and the Caspian, the oilfields being at Ishimbaevo, from where runs a pipe-line to the big refinery at Ufa, and near Perm, from where crude oil goes to Saratov to be refined. Geologists believe that this area, known as the "Second Baku", may equal the famous Caucasian fields. According to the latest available figures, this oil area produced 2,000,000 tons in 1939, or roughly 7 per cent. of the Soviet output of that year. There is however a planned output of 7,000,000 tons for 1942. It is in this area that the Soviet Union primarily relies for her production of octane aviation spirit, of which large quantities have been imported so far from the United States.

TRANSCAUCASIA.

Transcaucasia's importance in the Soviet economy is great, which explains Hitler's covetous glances in that direction. Hitler is still far away from this region, and should the long-promised German drive in Spring materialise he will meet with stout resistance. The only link between Transcaucasia and the south from where the German drive may be presumed to come, is the railway line between Grozini and Rostov, the mountainous nature of the country making it difficult to construct other railway lines. The country is howover well linked up with the industrial centres of the Urals and Central Asia, so that in case of invasion the Russians will have the superior advantage of working behind interior lines of communications, and rushing supplies from the industrial areas of the north-east to affected areas in the south.

WESTERN SIBERIA.

The main recent development in Western Siberia is in the Kuznetz coal region. This rich coalfield, second in importance only to the Ukrainian coalfields, provides a great variety of fuel and coking coal to the industries of West Siberia and the Ural area. In this region can be seen the amazing examples of Russian ingenuity and labour to fight back the Nazi invader. Towns have sprung up where only scattered farms previously existed, and new mining regions have opened amid mountains and forests, steppes and deserts. The population of Novosibirsk has doubled in the last six years, the population of Kemerovo has increased seven-fold and that of Stalinsk nearly 60-fold.

THE "SECRET" PROVINCE

The great new industrial belt behind the Caspian and Aral Seas, running right to the Chinese border, is the province of Kazakhstan, which like so many modern developments in Russia has not been much publicised. But it is a highly industrialised area capable of maintaining a large part of the Russian armed forces.

Before the year 1917 this region of dense forest and wide steppe was a land of grain and cotton, cattle and sheep. After the Revolution, the Russians erected here a greater industrial structure than in the Urals, a greater war potential than Hitler or the world dreamed of. Into this area Stalin has sent a great number of factories and thousands of workers, and is busy arranging the links with India and Iran for which it is so well suited. To it, as to the Ural region, he has packed plants wholesale from the threatened areas of Moscow, Ukraine and Rostov.

THE FAR EAST.

In the last 20 years, Soviet Central Asia has undergone a remarkable change. A land of primitive agriculture and nomad cattle-breeding, it is now a vast region of intensive industrial crops. The ancient cities of Tashkent, Samarkand, Bokhara and Kokand have large modern quarters, and the area has five hydro-electric power stations, cotton mills and other factories. Irrigation has increased cotton cultivation three-fold in the last six years, and the new spinning and weaving mills are working at breakneck speed in Fergana and Askahabad, turning out clothes for the Russian armed forces. The country also contains oil, coal, iron, molybdenum and other non-ferrous metals.

The Soviet Far Eastern Region has been developed with the idea of staving off a possible Japanese attack in that area, without disturbing the military strength and dispositions in the West. The Russian Far Eastern Army is reputed to be a million strong, while the fleet at Vladivostok is capable of meeting any local danger. The Trans-Siberian Railway has been double-tracked throughout, and has been equipped with the necessary requirements to meet the strain of an unusual contingency.

CONCLUSION.

With these vast resources still in their hands as incentive to a greater effort, the Soviet people are determined to annihilate the invader. They had already by the end of January liberated about 100,000 square miles of their native territory, and are bent on liberating it still further. They know that the coming spring and summer will see the German beast ready once again for a further kill. Moscow messages have begun emphasizing that the enemy is putting up fierce resistance, and the Nazis are saying that they will fight to the last, rather than retreat any further.

But the Soviet people know that under Stalin they will fight through to final victory. More than anyone else, perhaps, they know and understand what they are fighting for, because the war has touched the life of each and every citizen. Eight months of the fires of war have turned them into tempered steel.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

4—4—42 to 10—4—42.

India and Ceylon.—The camelopard will no more change his spots than JAPAN either her treachery or low cunning. How persuasively did JAPAN's official paper, the *Asham Shimbun* coo recently, 'JAPAN harbours no ambition towards INDIA. On the contrary, the Japanese are most ardent in looking forward to an independent INDIA. JAPAN is strong enough to give Indians freedom.' Hell and idiocy could not have been rolled together in one short paragraph better than here: That INDIA should aim at freedom apart from BRITAIN and except as

part of the commonwealth! Worse, that JAPAN should come forward to win INDIA her emancipation! And worst, that INDIA should ever think of any fraternisation with the dastardly sub-human enemy of mankind!

But newspaper nonsense apart, JAPAN's responsible Prime Minister, General Tojo broadcast recently from TOKYO of the 'golden opportunity' that now offered itself for establishing an 'INDIA for the Indians'. Ironically and fantastically enough, the message came at the very moment that Japanese bombs were falling on Indian soil.

Carrier-based enemy aircraft raided in force COLOMBO harbour, and the adjacent air-port and Railway works at RATMALANA, on Easter Sunday. The assault was no doubt intended to be a knock-out blow, in PEARL HARBOUR fashion on INDIA's southern bastion! But thanks to the excellent defences, and the courage and calmness of the citizens, worthy of *blitzed* BRITAIN in 1940, the attack ended in dismal failure. Never had an enemy sustained such loss: out of 75 planes which invaded 32 were destroyed and 25 damaged. Any Japanese airman who might have baled out to save their lives are being hunted for and rounded up. The casualties were about 50.

On the following day (Monday) VIZAGAPATAM and COCANADA had 2 small raids each. In both the places the town areas were not attacked. At VIZAGAPATAM harbour installations were slightly injured, and the casualties were 5 killed and 40 wounded; at COCANADA, a launch of the Coromandel Company escorting another vessel was attacked, as well as the oil installations on the coast: the casualties were one killed and 5 wounded.

On the same day MADRAS city had an air-raid alert, like CALCUTTA on the 3rd, but no attack followed in either case.

Trincomalai, the naval port of CEYLON had an air attack on Thursday.

The Bay of Bengal.—Japanese air and naval forces it is known, are now at large in the Bay of Bengal, and have attacked several merchant ships. American flying fortresses based on INDIA are operating over the same area. On April 5, it was reported that these huge planes hit a Japanese cruiser, a troop-ship and two supply-ships at PORT BLAIR, and carried out raids on RANGOON harbour damaging the docks and the port.

The Indian Ocean.–The British cruisers *Dorsetshire* and *Cornwall* and an air craft carrier have been sunk in the Indian Ocean by Japanese air craft.

Burma.—In BURMA, both sides are resting and reorganising after the PROME-TOUNGOO engagements. Imperial forces have taken up new positions north of THYEMYO, after withdrawing from THYEMYO and THAYEPMYO, having demolished the oil and cement installations there. The enemy's forward troops are located in the NYUNG—BINZEIK area. MANDALAY was raided heavily on Friday. General Alexander's forces suffer from three handicaps—lack of air support, poor communications and a hostile native population. 8,000 Burmese rebels are reported to be operating on the Irrawaddy and Sittang fronts. Many fifth columnists are being rounded up.

The Japanese eighteenth division is being concentrated north-west of CHIENGMAI, in order to strike into the SHAN STATES and cut the railway between MANDALAY and LASHIO. The Chinese, fully aware of the eventuality are taking every step to maintain contact with the British forces on the Prome front.

Eight fully equipped Japanese divisions, between 120,000 and 150,000 strong are said to have been massed in JAVA and SINGAPORE for the next offensive move.

China.—Sir Mahommed Zafrullah Khan has been appointed Agent General for INDIA in CHINA.

The Philippines.—After an epic defence of four months American and Philipino resistance has ceased in the BATAAN Peninsula, as the result of very heavy attacks by overwhelming Japanese forces. The immediate cause was an enveloping enemy movement on the eastern flank, and the physical exhaustion of the defenders.

It is likely that General Wainwright will withdraw the remnant of his forces to CORREGIDOR and continue the fight from there.

South Pacific.—A. U. S. Submarine operating in the China sea has sunk a 10,000 ton Japanese passenger liner and a 5,000 ton freighter. A Japanese cruiser was sunk, another is believed to have been sunk and 5 other ships damaged by U. S. Submarines in the vicinity of Christmas Island. Two sea-plane tenders, one transport ship and another ship were damaged near BALI, and one supply ship was damaged near LOMLOK ISLAND (off JAVA).

The total losses, since PEARL HARBOUR, inflicted on the Japanese by the U. S. Navy now amount to 135 vessels including 56 warships.

The Japanese have effected a landing in the SOLOMON ISLANDS area and raided DARWIN for the 13th time. They have also occupied LORENGAN, on the MANUS ISLAND, the largest in the Admiralty group. It lies on the main Japanese supply route. The Allies have raided KOEPANG, RABAUL, GASMATA and LAE.

Libya.—Large scale Axis movements appear to have begun, although, as the Annalist observes, it is unlikely that General Rommel will make any isolated move apart from a general Nazi spring offensive. The German front line in LIBYA, running from TMIMI near the coast to MECHILI 60 miles inland, has been constantly attacked for sometime past by the Imperial Forces. Five weeks ago the enemy sallied forth and threatened the British positions at EL GAZALA, but suddenly called off the attack and retired. Meanwhile, General Rommel has visited BERLIN. The Italian tank division has been brought up to its full strength and the two Nazi divisions there considerably reinforced. The present enemy movements portend an impending offensive.

MALTA has been intensively and uninterruptedly raided every except one day since Dec. 4. It had its 2000th alert and the heaviest raid yet on April 7. The brave Maltese hold on and defy the enemy.

ALEXANDRIA has also been raided. A British Hospital ship leaving TOBRUK carrying wounded was attacked by eleven Junkers bombers.

The R. A. F. raided BENGAZI and DERNA. Aly Maher Pasha, Ex-premier of EGYPT has been placed under arrest for reasons of State.

Russia.—The ice is breaking on the River Volga, and a German News Agency announces 'the end of the winter campaign' and continues, 'The present operations have now entered a phase which may be described as intermediary. During this phase large scale operations will be ruled out owing to the thaw which has set in. The period would be used for the regrouping and concentration of forces in readiness for the start of the dry period.' The Russians also admit that the present fighting, 'though heavy, is mainly positional and preparatory.'

As Winter is passing and Spring approaches the Red Army has every reason to be satisfied with its winter achievements. It has hit the enemy without respite during winter over the entire front, with

favourable results, particularly in the LENINGRAD front. The gains in the Central Front have also been substantial, and on the Briansk front the Soviet troops have clung to advanced positions. Further, the full employment of the German Second, Sixth, and Seventeenth Armies on the South-Western and Donetz Basin fronts has necessitated the continuous calling up of German Reserves during winter.

Between March 27 and April 3 the Germans lost 40,000 officers and men, 28 tanks, 122 field guns, 69 motors and 541 machine guns. The position of the 16th Army is deteriorating. On April 5 above 119 Nazi planes were shot down, with a total of 915 for the week.

Soviet troops have smashed the Central Front and penetrated into White RUSSIA.

Huge quantities of British tanks, aeroplanes, guns and ammunition are reaching RUSSIA by the Arctic ports. Mr. A V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, reminds how 'right through winter, convoy after convoy has been taken through the northern stormy, dark, ice-bound Arctic, fighting off enemy attacks'.

An army of 60,000 Poles has been transferred to PERSIA, equipped with its own air-force and panzer units.

'Easter Eggs'.—During the week the R. A. F. again bombed the Matford works at POISSY near PARIS, the docks and shipping at LE HAVRE, rail-centres and factories in BELGIUM and industrial plants in N. W. GERMANY. Over 300 bombers took part.

Nazi Perturbation.—One immediate effect of these raids, especially the one on ST. NAZAIRE, has been an increase of the army of occupation in FRANCE, followed by a meeting in PARIS, on March 26 and 27, of the Nazi Chiefs to examine the defence plans of the Atlantic Coast, and to establish better liaison between the coastal ports and the Nazi troops in the rear.

Hitler's Conference.—At KIEV Hitler again met his chiefs to discuss the measures to be taken to prevent general risings in occupied EUROPE. The conference was attended by Himmler, the Gestapo chief, Heydrich, the 'protector' of BOHEMIA, Treboven, the Reich commissar in NORWAY, and the military Commanders in the NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, and Occupied FRANCE. Hitler is reported to have declared at the meeting that it would be impossible to send any reinforcements to keep down rebellion, and that the local chiefs should adopt a ruthless régime if necessary.

Wholesale Resignations.—All the Clergymen in NORWAY handed in their resignation on Easter Sunday, resenting Nazi and Quisling interference in their sacred work. They have declared that 'they could not receive direction as to how the Word of God should be preached'. They have also protested against the attempted 'immoral education of children'.

Food-shortage in Germany.—Dr. Robert Platow, GERMANY's food expert, has stated that export of fat to GERMANY from occupied countries has been greatly reduced; deliveries from ASIA have generally stopped; grain exports from the BALKANS are no longer important and the one thing quite clear to day was 'serious food difficulties.'

Matters American.—1. *War Production.* The following picture of American production of planes, tanks, and arms from Detroit factories is given by Mr. Donald Nelson, the U. S. War Production Board Chief:—

"The largest armament programme the world has ever seen has been geared up to fast action here and now. It dwarfs anything done by America in the past.

"By midsummer, military aeroplane and engine production will be so fast that the problem will be where to find rail transport to handle the load.

"The men work from 7 a. m. until midnight, if necessary, to finish the work. Orders for tools, materials and parts permit war plant to work 24 hours a day. The time required to rifle machinegun barrels has been reduced by 80 per cent. Armour plate is flame cut instead of machined, in order to speed the production of tank parts.

"Detroit is smashing, banging, clanging, welding, demolishing, building and producing—doing overnight a job which defeatist wiseacres said could not be done in a year."

"The UNITED STATES had produced more than 2,500 million dollars worth of munitions in March. War contracts representing an annual rate of 3,000 million dollars showed a three-fold increase to date over 1941.

"The UNITED STATES was going to meet in 1942 the goal of 8,000,000 tons of shipping.

"The great Ford heavy bomber plant would be producing planes before the end of May.

"The conversion of the automobile industry had been beyond his expectation, and the drive to increase war production by 25 per cent was proceeding at speed."

2. Col. Frank Knok, the Navy Secretary has revealed that the U. boat attacks along the Atlantic Coast considerably 'dropped off in the last week due to protective methods recently adopted by the U. S. Navy.'

3. The U.S. have recognised Free French AFRICA (French Equatorial AFRICA) including the Cameroons as she recognised the Free French Possessions in the Pacific, and has appointed a consul-general at BRAZZAVILLE the capital. Vichy has protested.

4. The U. S. have entered into a trade agreement with MEXICO which will develop the economic life of both the countries and speed up the War Effort.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date. / Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
30—3—42 (Monday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available about day and night operations.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Offensive sweeps over the forward areas in CYRENAICA.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		6 planes.	31 planes.
FAR EAST—TIMOR (Dutch). (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at KOEPANG.			6 planes
NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
Reconnaissance over the Jap occupied portion of NEW GUINEA.			
31—3—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT:—			
Air fields, factories and railway centres in occupied FRANCE and BELGIUM.			1 plane.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies	Aircraft losses for Enemies
31—3—42 (Tuesday)—cont.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Enemy ground forces, transport vehicles, camps and road communications in the MARTUBA, TMIMI and DERNA areas.			
Shipping and harbour installations at BENGHAZI.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole battle area.		13 planes.	24 planes.
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
Jap communications behind the lines.			
TIMOR (Dutch). (By American and British planes).			
KOEPANG.		7 planes.	
NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
SALAMAUA.			
1—4—42 (Wednesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY:—			
The docks at BOULOGNE.		1 plane.	
NIGHT:—			
Industrial objectives and communications in west and north-west of GERMANY. **Matford works** at POISSY (near PARIS). **The docks and shipping** at LE HAVRE. **Air fields** in occupied FRANCE. **Laying mines** in enemy waters.		15 bombers.	1 plane.
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Offensive sweeps over the forward areas in CYRENAICA.			
Targets at MARTUBA, DERNA and TMIMI areas.			

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies	Aircraft losses for Enemies
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		11 planes.	57 planes.
FAR EAST—NEW BRITAIN and NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
Reconnaissances over the enemy occupied portions.			
2—4—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY:—			
Patrol over the North sea.			3 planes.
NIGHT:—			
The Matford works at POISSY (near PARIS).	Very heavily damaged.		
The docks at LE HAVRE.			
Enemy airfields and other targets in occupied territories.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
The landing ground at DERNA.			
The harbour and shipping at BENGHAZI.			
Enemy ground forces in the forward areas in CYRENAICA.		No loss.	
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole front.		6 planes.	26 planes
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
An enemy aerodrome in South BURMA.			
3—4—42 (Friday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT:—			
An enemy airfield in Northern FRANCE.			
Other aerodromes and marshalling yards in the occupied northern FRANCE.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
3—4—42. (Friday)—cont.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Offensive sweeps over the forward areas of CYRENAICA.			
The harbour installations and shipping at BENGHAZI.			
Enemy positions in the TMIMI, MARTUBA and DERNA areas.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		3 planes.	23 planes.
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA (By American and British planes).			
Reconnaissances over the SALAMAUA and LAE areas.			
BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
An aerodrome in South BURMA.			
4—4—42 (Saturday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY:—			
Railways near ST. OMER.			
Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.		11 fighters.	5 fighters.
NIGHT:—			
No information available.			
LIBYA. (By British planes)			
Enemy aerodromes at BERKA. **The harbour and shipping** at BENGHAZI. **The aerodrome and grounded aircraft** at MARTUBA. **Patrol sweeps** over the battle areas in CYRENAICA.		6 planes.	2 planes.
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		16 planes.	102 planes.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
FAR EAST—TIMOR (Dutch). (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at KOEPANG.			6 planes.
NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
LAE. **The aerodrome** at SALAMAUA.		2 planes.	11 planes. Many more damaged.
BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
Reconnaissances behind the enemy lines.			
PHILIPPINES. (By American and British planes).			
Jap forward positions in the BATAAN Peninsula.			
5—4—42 (Sunday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT:—			
Industrial objectives at COLOGNE and **other places** in the RHINELAND. **The GNOME-RHONE works and other factories** at GENNEVILLIERS near PARIS. **The docks** at LE HAVRE. **Aerodromes** in occupied countries.		5 bombers.	
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
The landing ground at DERNA.			
Objectives at BENGHAZI, BERKA, and MARTUBA.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		17 planes.	119 planes
FAR EAST—NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
The harbour and shipping at RABAUL. **The aerodrome** at RABAUL. **The aerodrome** at GASMATA.	Many planes damaged.		
NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
LAE.			

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date. / Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
31—3—42 (Tuesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
AFTERNOON :—			
South-west coast of ENGLAND.	No damage at all.		
MALTA.			
Shipping in the harbour at VALETTA.		2 planes. Many damaged.	
RUSSIA. (By German planes).			
Vicinity of MOSCOW.		5 planes.	
FAR EAST—AUSTRALIA. (By Jap planes).			
Port DARWIN.	No damage.		
FAR EAST—PHILIPPINES (By Jap planes).			
A base hospital in BATAAN.			
1—4—42 (Wednesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA. (By German planes).			
Shipping at TOBRUK.	Not a single ship damaged ;		
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
GIBRALTAR.	No damage.		
MALTA.		6 planes; 5 planes damaged.	No loss.
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By Jap planes).			
A town in Central BURMA.			
2—4—42 (Thursday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—			
Coastal districts of South-east and south ENGLAND.	Slight damage and a few casualties.	1 plane.	
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		3 planes.	
FAR EAST—PHILIPPINES, (By Jap planes).			
American front-line positions in BATAAN.			
3—4—42 (Friday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—			
A point in South-west ENGLAND.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		6 planes. 3 planes damaged.	
FAR EAST—PHILIPPINES (By Jap planes).			
CORREGIDOR.			
4—4—42 (Saturday).			
BRITAIN, (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—			
A point in west ENGLAND.	A few casualties.		
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST—AUSTRALIA. (By Jap planes).			
Port DARWIN.			
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By Jap planes).			
PROME.			
RUSSIA. (By German planes).			
LENINGRAD.		18 planes.	
5—4—42 (Sunday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—			
East coast of ENGLAND.		1 plane.	
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST—AUSTRALIA. (By Jap planes).			
Port DARWIN.		4 planes.	
CEYLON. (By Jap planes).			
COLOMBO.		27 planes ; 5 probably destroyed. 25 planes damaged.	

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies.
6—4—42 (Monday).	**BRITAIN. (By German planes).**			
MORNING :—				
	ENGLISH CHANNEL.		1 planes.	
NIGHT :—				
	Coastal areas in south ENGLAND.			
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
	MALTA.		3 planes.	
	FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
	Port MORESBY.		1 plane.	
	INDIA. (By Jappanese planes).			
	VIZAGAPATNAM.			
	COCONADA.			

SIDE LIGHTS.

BAPTISM OF FIRE. CEYLON had her first baptism of fire on Easter Sunday, when Japanese aircraft raided COLOMBO harbour for about two hours and a half. The attack was sudden and savage, the intention of the invaders being no doubt to make a second PEARL HARBOUR of COLOMBO, but the organised defences of the place, coupled with the courage and calmness of the citizens, equal to BRITAIN's in the days of her *blitz* converted an intended triumph into a signal defeat—the first for JAPAN in the eastern waters.

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THE VALUE OF THE ANDAMANS. With the occupation of the Burman coast line by the enemy the strategic value of the ANDAMANS to the Allies became less, and as early as March 12, the islands were in consequence evacuated. The Japanese no doubt may use PORT BLAIR as a port of call, a fuelling station and a base for patrolling aircraft, but for serious air-raids on the Indian mainland it will not be of much use, as it lies 650, 790, 840, and 940 miles respectively from PENANG, CALCUTTA, MADRAS and COLOMBO.

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A QUESTION OF SUPPLIES. In BURMA, the main question is one of supplies. On the two main fronts of the Irrawaddy and the Sittang, the Allies are in a favourable position, having the advantage of defence in depth, with local air superiority; but the disadvantage is that their supplies, now to be chiefly obtained from INDIA, have to come through

hill and jungle, where the only communications are tracks. The enemy also suffers from a similar though not identical difficulty. His supply lines though open by sea run for 3,000 miles from TOKYO.

PORT MORESBY, from which the enemy hopes to dominate AUSTRALIA, is also 3,600 miles from TOKYO across the sea, and the Pacific is by no means a Nippon lake. American naval attacks off the WAKE and MARSHALL ISLANDS, in the Java seas and round NEW GUINEA, coupled with the heavy Japanese losses at sea, reveal that the capture of places by surprise attacks, however spectacular, does not necessarily lead to lasting conquests.

Be it remembered also that the American battlefleet has not yet appeared on the scene, and the successes hitherto obtained are the achievements of the American smaller units only. The American Fleet, as they say, is still 'in being', though its whereabouts are secret. So long as her fleet is afloat—and its strength is being daily augmented by new construction, the sword of Damocles hangs over all the lines of Japanese communication and over JAPAN herself. American submarines alone have already achieved an astounding success—since PEARL HARBOUR, they have by themselves taken a toll of 204 Japanese vessels, including 82 warships.

Since the Battle of JAVA, there has been a definite increase of American destroyers and land based air units in the Pacific area.

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AXIS MISCHIEF IN THE MIDDLE-EAST. The Axis is heralding its spring offensive by making an insidious lying propaganda throughout the MIDDLE EAST.

In IRAN, the propaganda insinuates the existence of Anglo-Russian designs on Iranian territory. 'BRITAIN and RUSSIA' says the Rome Radio, 'have planned to overrun the entire Iranian territory'. TOKYO chimes in 'RUSSIA is aiming to incorporate IRAN as a republic in the Soviet Union'. BERLIN echoes, 'The Bolsheviks are advancing towards the Persian Gulf'. It is needless to add that all this is detestable fabrication. As early as Feb. 4, speaking before the House of Commons, Mr. Eden had assured the world that 'the British and Soviet Governments undertook to respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of IRAN; that they had no designs or ambitions which would conflict with this principle'.

The TOKYO-inspired SAIGON Radio started another canard, taking advantage of the recent change in the Iranian ministry and of the visit of PERSIAS' Queen to her brother King Faruq in EGYPT. The story was concocted that the Shah had fled to TEHERAN, while his Queen had fled to CAIRO, and his minister M. Farughi had disappeared. The lie of course was soon disproved when the queen returned and was received in person by the

Shah at TEHERAN and M. Farughi accepted the post of Minister of Court under the new Government.

In EGYPT the Axis sought to create trouble along a different line by advertising that the return of the Wafdists under Nahas Pasha was an anti-British move, and proof of a pro-Fascist orientation of Egyptian politics. But this lie was nailed to the counter when Nahas Pasha himself declared, 'EGYPT and GREAT BRITAIN are bound by a treaty which respects the rights of each party. EGYPT will do all in her power to cement the friendship which was born with the treaty, in hard and easy times, for good or bad until victory is won'.

Axis propaganda has penetrated TURKEY also, where the lie has been spread abroad not only that RUSSIA was going to attack TURKEY, but also that TURKEY had sent an ultimatum calling on RUSSIA and BRITAIN to withdraw from IRAN. Much capital has also been sought to be made of the accidental bombing of a Turkish Town by an R. A. F. plane, by mistake, even after BRITAIN had admitted the mistake and had agreed to pay compensation. To these machinations, President Inonu's speech to the people of SMYRNA on March 19 is a fitting reply. 'Citizens of Izmir', (SMYRNA), he said 'The frontiers of the country are being patrolled by the Turkish soldiers with great vigilance'. Other indications bear out that TURKEY is prepared not only to maintain her present relations with her ally GREAT BRITAIN, but actively to resist GERMANY or her satellites if they should attack her.

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THE BALKAN IMBROGLIO. Hitlers' coercion of his Balkan satellites to supply cannon-fodder for his spring campaign is meeting with unexpected difficulties and complications. With the fall of Mr. Bardossy, the Hungarian Premier who was in favour of all-out aid for GERMANY, Hitler's hopes of obtaining Hungarian levies have declined. The substitution of the Kallay ministry has introduced the new policy of limited help.

RUMANIA grumbles that while her men have been led to the shambles in large numbers and sacrificed, HUNGARY and BULGARIA, idle spectators hitherto, are to have the lion's share in the spoils if any. RUMANIA and HUNGARY indulge in mutual recrimination over the division of TRANSYLVANIA. Anti-Rumanian demonstrations are being staged in HUNGARY. Clashes are anticipated between RUMANIA and HUNGARY, in which BULGARIA may also join against RUMANIA, and all the three countries are inclined to make use of the incidents as an excuse for not sending help to Hitler, urging the necessity to protect their own territories from foes near at hand.

To this unrest should be attributed the recent emergency meetings in the Hungarian Parliament, followed by King Boris' sudden visit to BERLIN.

Von Papen is said to have accompanied King Boris to the German capital—a fact which suggests an intended Bulgarian attack on the Bosphorus.

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THE PARTY AND THE ARMY. It is now a notorious fact that the Nazi Party and the Army have fallen out in GERMANY, and as a result the Army has captured the Reich, and squabbles and intrigues are now current among the Army Chiefs themselves for place and power. Rumours are heard that Gen. Falkenhorst is to be moved from his command in NORWAY, Gen. Stulpnagel from FRANCE and Gen. Tussing from CZECHOSLOVAKIA, and that Gen. Von Runstedt will supersede Von Bock. Marshal Reichenau is gone. Generals Guderian, List, Kleist and Francke are said to be incapacitated by illness. It is widely and reliably stated that all these 'casualties' are not really due to illness, but to Hitler's habit of finding scape-goats for his failures.

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CO-PROSPERITY. We revert to this nauseating topic not only as fresh proofs are pouring in, week after week, of Japanese rapacity, but also to remind our countrymen of what a calamity it would be if these eastern Huns were ever to set foot on the Indian soil. 'A sound prosperity sphere has been almost completed', boasts a TOKYO Radio in Chinese, 'All the material resources of the south seas have fallen into Japanese hands; and the publicity corps of the Japanese Army has started a Three-Slogan Campaign:—'JAPAN is the light of ASIA,' 'JAPAN is the mother of ASIA' and 'JAPAN is the leader of ASIA'.

The following instance of 'Co-prosperity' in MANCHUKUO has been revealed by M. Amleto Vespa, a former member of the Japanese Secret Service in his book '*Secret Agent of Japan*'

"The monopoly for the sale of narcotics has been granted to a Japanese Korean syndicate. I am told that the syndicate has paid several millions to the Military command for this monopoly" (P. 80)

"This company has the right to operate a maximum of twenty gambling houses anywhere on the railway line." (P. 81)

"Next comes the monopoly for exporting goods to CHINA duty free and without danger, under the protection of the Japanese military, who sold the sole right to the south Manchurian Railway, represented here by the Kokusai Unio. The matter of full control is going to be more difficult. Hundreds of officials and officers along the border are making a fortune by helping and protecting smugglers." (P. 82).

"In HARBIN there are 172 brothels, 56 opium dens, and 194 narcotic shops. The offices of a Jap firm which specialises in the export of opium to CHINA labels its goods as "military supplies."

CO-ROBBERY. The biggest landowner in JAPAN is the Emperor. The Bibatsu—a wealthy clique of four families—the Mitsui, the Mitsibushi, the Knitomo and the Matsuta control a third of JAPAN's trades, and a half of the country's shipbuilding, own a third of all the bank deposits and dominate the insurance business. They also control engineering, mining, brewing, sugar, steel and non-ferrous industries, oil-refining, food-canning and electrical apparatus manufacture. They supply all the material and all the capital to all the industrial concerns, and all the money required for the economic development of the Japanese Empire.

Three quarters of the workers in the textile factories are young country girls working from 12 to 14 hours a day, with but 2 holidays a month and for a daily wage of seven annas a day, half the annual income going to pay for debts contracted at 12 per cent interest.

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SILLY RUMOURS. We consider it necessary to disabuse the public mind of certain mischievous rumours which are being circulated, to the effect that a discrimination, prejudicial to the Indians and favourable to European and Anglo-Indian refugees, is being made in respect of evacuation now proceeding from BURMA to INDIA by the land-route. The facts are different.

Till three weeks ago there was only one such route, running from TAMU on the Burmese frontier to PALLEL in the MANIPUR State. The narrowness of the road, added to scarcity of water and the prevalence of cholera along the roadside, necessitated a restriction in the number of evacuees using it.

Meanwhile, an alternative route, of about the same length, with ample water facilities has been opened up, large enough for about 1,500 passengers to go over it every day. This route, which has also been well stocked with supplies of Indian food, has been opened to the Indian refugees, the other road, stocked with European food such as beef, and capable of taking 50 passengers only daily, is used by the Europeans and the Anglo-Indians.

Every possible convenience is provided for the Indian refugees. Burmese officials look after evacuation arrangements at the Burmese frontier, assisted by a Government of India officer, with a party of police. Camps accommodating 20,000 persons have been constructed at intervals along the new route, where food is distributed free and medical assistance is provided. Guards have been stationed along the route to look after the safety of the evacuees.

THE LYING RADIO FRATERNITY.

A.—BANGKOK.

1. *March 11*—'The Japanese have captured the whole of NEW GUINEA' (The fact is the Japanese keep on raiding Port MORESBY and have evacuated MARKHAM valley.)

2. *March 21*—'Both AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND have now been annexed to the American Empire'. (A lie which requires no comment).

3. *March 26*—'Reports reveal that Mahatma Gandhi has declined the request of Sir Stafford Cripps to see him'. (Mahatma Gandhi had a 2¼ hours' talk with Sir Stafford on March 30).

B.—BERLIN.

1. *March 21*—'The British Premier has sent Cripps to deceive the Indians'.

2. *March 22*—'Cripps was escorted by a heavy police-guard. Even Press representatives were not allowed to see him'.

3. *March 23*—'Sir Stafford Cripps will in the near future try to dislodge Mr. Churchill'.

4. *March 24*—'Cripps has come to INDIA to deprive every Indian of the birth-right of Freedom'.

(BERLIN's lies are too blatant to need any comment).

A MEMORABLE AGREEMENT.

by

Vernon Bartlett.

A recent event of outstanding importance for the future relationship of the United States and Great Britain has tended to be rather overshadowed by more sensational war news, and has not received the attention that it deserves. This was the publication of an ageement between the Governments of the United States and Great Britain setting out the principles which are to govern the future application of the Lend-Lease Act, and the post-war settlement of the obligations incurred under it.

It may well be that historians in later years will describe President Roosevelt's invention of the Lend-Lease device as the greatest of the many political contributions he has made to the cause of world freedom. Not only did it

provide for the supply of weapons, war materials and food to hard-pressed countries resisting aggression, but it enabled the United States to expand her own preparations for war on a scale commensurate with her needs. Moreover, it took all complicated transactions involved in maintaining an adequate flow of material assistance to the anti-Axis nations, out of the account books, and substituted, for the value of that help in dollars and cents, their value in benefits, present or future, to the safety of the United States.

REPAYMENT NOT IN CASH.

In this way Lend-Lease escaped the future evils of either condescending philanthropy or purely commercial profitability. Repayment was expected, but not in cash. Thus there could be no question of piling up by the United States of enormous debts against other countries, which would inevitably have disrupted their entire financial structure when the time came for a settlement after the war. It was perhaps the lesson of the evil effects on the world's economy of the huge war debts of the last war which was uppermost in President Roosevelt's mind when he invented Lend-Lease.

But restitution of some kind must be inevitable, if the nations which have been receiving help from the United States are not to be placed in the unhappy position of existing on the United States' charity. The agreement signed last week was for the purpose of setting out the principles on which such restitution could be made. It did not attempt to define precisely what forms that restitution should take. It is quite evident that it will be impossible to do so until after the war. **But it makes it clear that, whatever form restitution may take, it shall not be such as to restrict or interfere with the development of trade and commerce, not only between the two countries themselves but the trade and commerce of the whole world.**

NATIONS' INTER-DEPENDENCE.

As Mr. Wendell Willkie said in a statement about the agreement, "It is a direct and positive step towards the enlargement of the trade areas of the world, and the recognition of the mutual economic inter-dependence of nations in a modern industrial society".

There is no doubt whatever that one of the major causes of the present conflict was the growth of a narrow economic nationalism, which sought to improve the prosperity of an individual nation at the expense of others, without regard for their welfare, or the evil repercussions upon any nation of the eventual strangulation of world trade and commerce. It is good to see that even amidst infinitely pressing problems of the war the statesmen of Britain and America are having foresight to guard against its pernicious after effects.

MALTA: WORLD'S MOST BOMBED ISLAND.
258 ALERTS LAST JANUARY!
PEOPLE FACE RAIDS BRAVELY.

Only a dot on the map of the world reveals the presence of Malta, island outpost that has been and is destined to remain one of the keypoints, not only of the war in the Mediterranean, but of the victorious struggle by the Allies for undisputed mastery of the seas.

The outside world hears little of the great drama that unfolds, day by day, on those 150 square miles of rocky territory. Malta takes it quietly, and the Maltese themselves would be the last to wish that their qualities of resistance should be represented as anything else than what was expected of them.

Since the day in the early summer of 1940 when Mussolini appeared on the balcony of the Palazzo Venezia, and informed the frenzied Fascists crowded in the square below him that Italy had decided to make war, **Malta has borne the full brunt of a prolonged aerial attack. So far there have been over 1,500 air raid alarms, and the tempo has increased with the release by the Germans from the Russian front of squadrons of Junker Bombers and Messerschmitt fighters.** In January of this year there were 258 alerts, an average of about eight a day.

In such conditions, life on the island is far from uneventful. The air seems filled with noises, both friendly and hostile. The sirens wail, and then the anti-aircraft gun batteries......justly referred to as among the finest and most powerful in the world......go into action.

While the guns are still firing, there comes a familiar sound that is music in the ears of all Maltese. Royal Air Force Hurricanes roar into the blue to engage the raiders. In the general din, and at intervals between the crash of shells and bombs, machine gun and cannon fire can be heard as the fighters, in the R. A. F. phrase, "sort them out".

The Maltese, who by now have seen more aerial combats than any other people in the British Empire, and who rarely miss a dogfight, cheer themselves hoarse as a plume of black and white smoke, streaking across the sky, heralds the doom of yet another German or Italian pilot.

True, there are gaping wounds and scars, where indiscriminate bombing has wrecked the homes and churches of the sturdy and devoutly Catholic Maltese in La Valetta and the villages and hamlets of the island, but morale has never been shaken, and the chief concern of the islanders is to hit back harder than they have been hit. Hundreds of the men-folk are playing their part in the war work of the three services, and hundreds more are eagerly awaiting their chance to take an active part in the fighting.

Life is tough and dangerous, but smiles lighten their tanned faces as they go about their daily duties. As the morning sun comes up from the sea the sirens churn out their first warning of the day. There is no panic. Mothers gather their children together and make quietly for the safety of the deep rock shelters. The men continue with their work until the gun splinters become too numerous or the bombs fall too close. At dusk, whole families find their way to the shelters for a sound sleep, away from the noise and danger of bombing.

The shelters are a source of astonishment to the Allied Forces arriving on the island. Cut and tunnelled out of solid rock, they number about six thousand, and another fifteen hundred are being constructed. They are mostly over a hundred feet deep, and house as many as 1,500 people, with a bed for each person. Nearly every shelter is equipped with electric light, wireless, washing and cooking facilities. Some of them even have small altars built in a quiet corner where regular evening services are held.

Despite Axis claims that the island is being starved into submission the food situation is remarkably good. There are two meatless days a week when fish can always be had, and there is plenty to eat for all. For those of the islanders who have lost their homes and belongings through enemy action, soup kitchens have been organised, where meals are obtainable for a few pence. The Government provides warm clothing, and makes grants of money if necessary. The local Milk Marketing Board sees to it that the children are provided with fresh cow's milk daily. Malnutrition is a thing of the past in Malta even in these days of stress.

On all sides one realises the deep esteem in which the Maltese hold the defenders of the island, paticularly the Royal Navy, which with the Merchant Marine brings valuable food and other supplies to the fortress, and the Royal Air Force that is always on guard.

Every letter that leaves the island bears a stamp with the flags of the two services, and the inscription "Malta is grateful to the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force for the safe arrival of this letter". Everywhere, sailors and airmen are welcomed with open arms. There are always resounding cheers when the fighter pilots score a success, or when the Navy brings in yet another convoy, and many a hand waves greetings to the bomber crews as they fly overhead on their way to attack Axis bases.

The three services co-operate in their task. Typical perhaps was a conversation overheard between an officer of a night fighter unit and an army officer commanding a searchlight battery. **"You illuminate", said the R. A. F. officer, "We eliminate".**

But besides taking it without fuss Malta hits back vigorously. **Astride the enemy's chief line of communication to North Africa, the Navy and the Royal Air Force have taken heavy toll of shipping. Convoys and thousands upon thousands of tons of supplies have never reached Tripoli or the other ports of Axis-held North Africa.** The tonnage of bombs dropped by aircraft operating from the island is immense.

There are brave men in the front line at Malta. It was here that "the last of the flying Barnwells", a pilot officer who had proved himself an Ace night-fighter, followed one of his night-bomber victims down into the Mediterranean, and it was here that the Wing Commander of a shot-up reconnaissance aircraft so manœuvred his machine that his observer was able to bale out with the photographs before he himself crashed to his death.

From time to time there is a lot of talk about a possible invasion of Malta. **The Italians once tried to raid the defences of La Valetta with two-men submarines and other small craft, but it is almost certain that none of the vessels reached its base to tell the story of this dismal failure.** The Germans have been raiding in strength from the air for many weeks, and they have paid dearly for the very relative degree of success obtained.

Meanwhile, Malta carries on.

GERMANY HAS NO FREEDOM OF SEA MOVEMENT.

by

H. C. Ferraby.

Germany apparently believed that freedom of sea movement for them would automatically follow when they overran the coastline of Europe from Norway to the Bay of Biscay. They have been learning ever since that Britain's control of the northern waters is still effective. If, at the moment, the United Nations are taking some hard knocks in the Eastern Hemisphere, the Axis Powers are finding more and more difficulties in the sea war in the European area.

One recent item of official information threw a flood of light on the difficulties that the Germans in particular are experiencing by their complete inability to dispute British control seriously. The Secretary of State for Air pointed out that whereas, before last September, an average of 25 ships of 1,000 tons or more passed through the Straits of Dover each month, this seaborne movement of German supplies had been reduced during the succeeding five months to a few fast motor vessels, which contrived to slip through the British patrols under cover of night.

REGULAR BRITISH CONVOYS.

There was another even more impressive item in his review of the situation. He reminded us that British east coast convoys, using the same narrow 20-mile stretch of water through the Straits of Dover, have been so well protected between Harwich and Newhaven that it is hardly an exaggeration to say that they pass through with clocklike regularity. When Germany first occupied the ports and airfields on the southern side of the Straits in the summer of 1940, Goering exultantly shouted to the world that Britain's main outlet to the seas was thenceforward controlled by Germany. Quite possibly he honestly believed that that would be the case; that all British sea traffic from the North Sea into the English Channel and out into the Atlantic would be blockaded; and that great ports like London, Hull and Leith would stagnate.

It is quite certain, also, that the Germans believed they had broken the British blockade by this occupation of one side of the Straits of Dover, and that they would be able to use the sea freely once more. They started immediately to send supplies by sea round to the northern French ports, and to those on the Bay of Biscay, for their armies of occupation and for their naval forces operating in the Atlantic.

SURPRISE FOR GERMANS.

To their astonishment, they discovered that they had not acquired any freedom of movement in the English Channel. British naval forces and British aircraft constantly attacked their convoys, sinking or damaging a large proportion of the ships. The Germans increased the escort. There were cases when as many as eight escort vessels surrounded three merchantmen. Despite this coverage, the British forces fought their way through and wrecked the convoy. Gradually the mounting toll of lost ships and lost cargoes became too heavy for the already depleted resources of Germany. The endeavour to maintain a system of supply lines by sea to the outlying German garrisons had to be abandoned.

Yet all that time, and in the very same waters, British convoys, which had perhaps one escort vessel to every three merchantmen, instead of eight to every three, were passing every week with only minimum loss or damage.

AXIS ECONOMY HIT DOUBLY HARD.

German losses in this area hit Axis economy doubly hard. They were short of shipping to begin with, and had always to bear in mind the immense quantity of tonnage that would be necessary if ever an invasion of Britain was attempted. Even more serious for the Nazis was the loss of cargoes, because of the growing dearth of goods both in Germany and in all her occupied territories. This is due to the British blockade or, as we now call it, "economic warfare".

The German leaders apparently believed that possession of ports like Trondjhem, Antwerp and St. Nazaire would of itself restore to them freedom of sea movement. They believed they had only to break out of the narrow confines of Heligoland Bight to break the British blockade, and restore communications with the outer world. Their ships in distant ports were ordered to prepare for homeward voyages. They took on great cargoes in expectation of landing them for German use.

But freedom of sea movement did not come automatically. British warships were everywhere on patrol, and of the two score or so German vessels that did put to sea all but some half a dozen were intercepted, and either scuttled themselves or were captured.

Italy is similarly cut off from supplies from the outside world. The latest figures of food rationing in Italy are striking proof of the stringency of the pressure the blockade has maintained against her.

HOW GERMANY BLEEDS FRANCE WHITE.

by

Henri Alphand.

(*Henri Alphand is an author, and for nearly four years had charge of the negotiation of France's economic agreements, and was in frequent contact with German economic experts. He is thus well qualified to estimate the results of the economic régime Germany is now imposing on his country.*)

Long before the war Hitler had made no secret of the enmity he nurtured towards France. France, he willed, should never rise again. This aim he sought promptly and vindictively to realise as soon as he had his enemy prostrate. By sinister calculated design there began at once the work of bleeding her white, ruining her very economic existence, and making chances of any post-war recovery seemingly impossible.

With what remorselessness this "bleeding white" has been pursued may be gathered from the single fact that in the 18 months from June 22, 1940, to January 1, 1942, enforced expenditure of the French Treasury amounted to more than 450,000,000,000 francs or, at the rate of 176 francs to the pound sterling, about £ 2, 600,000,000. That is nearly £ 5,000,000 per day.

COMPARISON WITH BRITAIN.

Bearing in mind that the national revenue of Great Britain in recent years has been computed at about three and half times that of France, and during

the past 18 months the expenditure of the British Treasury has been £10,000,000 a day, it can be said that France under her "armistice" has borne a financial burden proportionately higher than that of wartime Britain.

Whilst moreover the strain on the British budget has served to increase the strength of the nation, the French Treasury during this period has been assisting in the plundering of the country, and has financed to the tune of 200,000,000,000 francs, or more than £ 1,000,000,000, the toll levied by Germany on the agricultural wealth, industrial production and transferable securities of France.

Harsher treatment could hardly have been imposed. France has not been able to escape the fate Hitler designed for her, either by signing the armistice or by persistent attempts at compromise with Germany. On the contrary, Vichy's policy of collaboration has merely oiled the complicated machinery by means of which the conqueror has acquired the supplies needed for feeding his own population, and for further subjugation of Europe.

Nevertheless, the financial burden borne by France is so crushing that it is gradually leading to a deterioration of the whole economic system, and, to whatever threats or measures which the Reich may have recourse, future output cannot fail to show a steady decrease.

Statistics issued by Vichy, though necessarily incomplete, reveal increasing difficulty in obtaining food supplies, growing disorganisation of transport, and more and and more acute shortage of essential raw materials. Germany hopes perhaps that when France's resources are exhausted, still more lands may have been conquered by her armies, and handed over to be exploited by her financiers and engineers.

EXTINCTION BY STARVATION.

Meanwhile, Hitler systematically pursues the realisation of another of his evil dreams in "*Mein Kampf*". It is that of striking at a hereditary enemy by threatening the very future of the race. Nazi policy clearly aims at starving France, as surely as it aims at feeding Germany.

The present food ration is equivalent to an average of 1,200 calories a head per day, while the strict minimum necessary for health is 2,500. Moreover, not only is it often impossible to obtain actual rations, particularly in the South and large towns, but the remaining 1,300 calories of non-rationed food stuffs must be found either in the open market or in the black market, where prices are extremely high. It was thus calculated that although 1,200 calories of rationed foods could be purchased for one shilling, 1,300 calories of non-rationed food stuffs would cost about four shillings, thus bringing the total outlay on food to five shillings a head per day. The vast majority of wage-earners cannot of course afford this amount, but even if they could, there would not be sufficient produce on the market to meet the demand.

RISE IN DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths in 1940 reached 734,500 excluding military losses, and this figure shows an increase of 115,055 or 18·6 percent. compared with the figures for 1939. Infantile mortality rose from 63 to 91 per 1,000. In the course of the first five months of 1941 the situation was even worse. Compared with the pre-war period, the death rate increased by 43 per cent. among persons above 60 years of age, by 22 per cent. among persons aged from 15 to 60, and ten per cent. among children.

Not less significant in their own way are the returns which show a decrease of 78,000 in the number of marriages in 1940. The birth rate, already very low in the years preceding the war, dropped by a further 8·5 per cent. in 1940. It has inevitably been much lower since the armistice. For it cannot be forgotten that 1,850,000 young men—a quarter of the French male population between the ages of 20 and 40—are held in German prison camps, and their daily rations do not exceed 900 calories; and that their very existence is largely dependent on food parcels, of which the nutritive value becomes lower and lower, and many of them are already in a state of physical debility.

SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION.

Thus we cannot fail to realise that we are faced with a systematic plan to weaken the power of French resistance for many years to come. But Hitler's programme of destruction goes still further. By every means—economic, financial, political—Germany seeks to destroy the unity and spirit of France as a nation.

The line of demarcation between the occupied and unoccupied zones is not only a military and economic frontier. It is a moral frontier, intended to bring about dissension between the French themselves. The gulf between social classes is widening. On the one hand there are the *nouveaux riches* of defeat, who can still buy food and clothing in the black market, and in certain restaurants and fashionable shops. On the other hand there are the wage earners and the unemployed, who can never subsist on what they can buy in the official market. The working classes have been extremely hard hit by the so-called national revolution, which in fact has simply legalised old privileges. The new labour charter has deprived them of the most elemental trade union guarantees, and they have no longer the right to strike.

So at every step Germany is trying to sow hatred and destroy the foundations of home life,—first by separating the French, and then by fostering illwill and suspicion among people living apart from one another, as well as by granting privileges to some and suppressing all public and individual freedom to the majority.

FRENCH REACTION.

Yet all news which reaches us from France—letters received by devious means and accounts given to travellers—points to one outstanding fact. It is that although the Germans have succeeded in looting the country, transforming the structure of its economic system and forcing French industry to work for the benefit of the Reich, they have not been able to prevent the vast majority of Frenchmen from uniting in a single cause—the cause of liberation.

Montesquieu's words are still true :—" One of the things to be observed in France is the extreme ease with which she has always recovered from her losses from disease and depopulation, and the resource with which she has always endured and even overcome the internal defeats of her various governments."

Yet it is to be hoped that this time the rescue may not be too long delayed. For the forces of destruction are so powerful that if they continue at their present rate, the evil may become deeply rooted in the soil of the nation.

JAPANESE REGIME IN HONG KONG

ESCAPED ENGLISHWOMAN'S STORY.

I have seen Miss Phyllis Harrop, the only Englishwoman to have escaped from Hong Kong so far, (cabled the *Daily Mail's* Special Correspondent in Chungking on March 12). This is the story she told me.

" When I got away, the colony was still in a state of chaos. Japanese gendarmerie were supposed to be in control, but looting was rampant. In the streets no woman was safe from the Japanese soldiers, no matter what her colour or race.

" All foreign civilians have been interned under appalling conditions—men, women and children alike. Dysentery is rife among these civilians. Many have died for lack of medical attention. The Japanese let them die. Those who are left bury their dead where they can in a corner of the camps.

"DON'T WANT FOREIGN MEDICINES"

" Medical supplies are non-existent. All were sized by the Japanese almost as soon as they arrived, and were wantonly destroyed. The Japanese simply said contemptuously : 'We have our own remedies ; we don't want foreign medicines.'

"Industry in the island has come to a complete standstill, Unemployment among the Chinese population is on a wholesale scale. There is tremendous shortage of food, and the sufferings of the crowded Chinese population are beyond description.

"This is a situation created by the Japanese themselves. They are trying to ease things now by evacuating as many Chinese and neutral foreigners—mostly Portuguese— as they can.

"For the rest they continue their policy of stripping the island bare. Iron railings and metal of every description have been collected for shipment to Japan. Even the ornamental bronze lions at the entrance to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank have been taken away.

ATROCITIES NOT EXAGGERATED.

"The atrocities are not exaggerated. Some I saw with my own eyes—in my own house. My Chinese houseboy was bayoneted in the stomach and killed for no apparent reason. Thirteen other Chinese were murdered in the same house. My amah (woman servant) was raped by three or four Japanese and was in a serious condition when I last heard of her. Foreign women who were raped included an Englishwomen of my acquaintance who was first slashed in the face with a soldier's belt. Her husband afterwards found her body with a bayonet, wounded in the stomach.

"The Japanese shot none of their victims; they bayoneted them all to death.

"People have learned now to keep off the streets. Because of lack of petrol, buses and trams only began running as I left at the end of January.

"How did I escape the assault myself? I don't know. I suppose it was my lucky star."

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

1942—

LECTURE XC—(*Batch 2*).

April ...	11, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	12, Sunday ...	Vayalogam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kudumiyamalai ...	6.30 p. m.
	13, Monday ...	Lechchumanpatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Mandaiyur ...	6.30 p. m.
	14, Tuesday ...	Nachandupatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Virachchilai ...	6.30 p. m.
	15, Wednesday.	Vengalur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Konapattu ...	6.30 p. m.
	16, Thursday ...	Panayappatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Rangiyam ...	6.30 p. m.
	17, Friday ...	Kodumbalur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Viralimalai ...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE XCI—(*Batch 3*).

	18, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	19, Sunday ...	Alangudi ...	6.00 p. m.
		Vadagadu ...	6.30 p. m.
	20, Monday ...	Annavasal ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilakkurichchi ...	6.30 p. m.
	21. Tuesday ...	Ramachandrapuram ...	6.00 p. m.
		Rayavaram ...	6.30 p. m.
	22, Wednesday	Valaramanikkam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Embal ...	6.30 p. m.
	23, Thursday ...	Malaiyur ...	6.00 p. m
		Karambakkudi ...	6.30 p. m.
	24, Friday ...	P. Puduppatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Vendampatti ...	6.30 p. m.

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